

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-type air conditioner comprising:

an outdoor unit having a compressor, an outdoor heat exchanger, and an outdoor unit piping system;

a plurality of indoor units each having an expansion device, an indoor heat exchanger, and an indoor piping system;

connection pipelines connected between the outdoor unit and the indoor units; and

a foreign matter ~~cutting-off means~~ cutoff device mounted on each of the connection pipelines for ~~prevention of the preventing~~ foreign matters matter from entering into the compressor of the outdoor unit.
2. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the foreign matter ~~cutting-off means~~ cutoff device is mounted adjacent to ports of the outdoor unit connected to the connection pipelines.
3. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a distributor located between ends of the connection pipelines, the distributor having ports to which the connection pipelines are

connected, wherein the foreign matter ~~cutting-off means~~ cutoff device is further mounted adjacent to a port ~~ports~~ of the distributor ~~having the connection pipelines connected thereto~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the foreign matter ~~cutting-off means~~ is cutoff device comprises a strainer.

5. (Currently Amended) A multi-type air conditioner comprising:
an outdoor unit having a compressor, an outdoor heat exchanger, a flow path control valve for controlling a flow path of the refrigerant from the compressor, and an outdoor unit piping system;
a plurality of indoor units each having an indoor unit expansion device, an indoor heat exchanger, and an indoor piping system;
a distributor for receiving refrigerant from the outdoor unit, distributing the refrigerant to the indoor units ~~proper to~~ in accordance with respective operation modes, and returning refrigerant to the outdoor unit ~~again~~;
connection pipelines connected between the outdoor unit and the distributor; and
a foreign matter ~~cutting-off means~~ cutoff device mounted on each of the connection pipelines for ~~prevention of the preventing~~ foreign matters matter from entering into the compressor of the outdoor unit.

6. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 5, wherein the foreign matter ~~cutting-off means is~~ cutoff device is mounted adjacent to ports of the outdoor unit connected to the connection pipelines.

7. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 6, wherein the foreign matter ~~cutting-off means is~~ cutoff device is further mounted adjacent to a port ~~ports~~ of the indoor units having the connection pipelines connected thereto.

8. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 5, wherein the foreign matter ~~cutting-off means is~~ cutoff device comprises a strainer.

9. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 5, wherein the multi-type air conditioner is connected to a plurality of areas and wherein the operation mode includes; modes include:

- a first operation mode for cooling all areas ~~rooms~~,
- a second operation mode for heating all areas ~~rooms~~,
- a third operation mode for cooling a ~~major-number~~ majority of areas ~~rooms~~ and heating a ~~minor-number~~ minority of areas ~~rooms~~, and
- a fourth operation mode for heating a ~~major-number~~ majority of areas ~~rooms~~ and cooling a ~~minor-number~~ minority of areas ~~rooms~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 5, wherein the flow path control valve includes;

- a first port in communication with an outlet of the compressor,
- a second port in communication with the outdoor heat exchanger,
- a third port in communication with an inlet of the compressor, and
- a fourth port blanked or connected to a blanked pipe piece.

11. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 10, wherein the outdoor unit piping system includes;

a first pipeline connected between the outlet of the compressor and the first port of the flow path control valve,

a second pipeline connected between the second port of the flow path control valve and ~~the~~ a first port of the outdoor unit having the outdoor heat exchanger mounted thereon,

a third pipeline connected between the first pipeline and the second pipeline of the outdoor unit, and

a fourth pipeline connected between the third port of the flow path control valve and the inlet of the compressor having an intermediate point connected to ~~the~~ a third port of the outdoor unit.

12. (Original) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 11, wherein the outdoor unit further includes an accumulator mounted on the fourth pipeline between the third port of the outdoor unit and the inlet of the compressor.

13. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 11, wherein the outdoor unit further includes;

a check valve mounted on the second pipeline between the outdoor heat exchanger and the first port of the outdoor unit, and

an outdoor unit electronic expansion device mounted on the second pipeline in parallel with the check valve.

14. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 11, wherein the check valve only permits refrigerant flow from the outdoor heat exchanger toward the first port of the outdoor unit, ~~only~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 11, wherein the connection pipelines include;

a first connection pipeline connected between the first port of the outdoor unit and ~~the~~ a first port of the distributor,

a second connection pipeline connected between the second port of the outdoor unit and ~~the~~ a second port of the distributor, and

a third connection pipeline connected between the third port of the outdoor unit and ~~the~~ a third port of the distributor.

16. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 15, wherein the distributor includes;

a distributor piping system for guiding refrigerant flow from the outdoor unit to the indoor units, and ~~vice-versa~~ from the indoor units to the outdoor unit, and

a valve bank mounted on the distributor piping system for controlling the refrigerant flow in the distributor piping system ~~proper to~~ in accordance with the respective operation modes.

17. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 16, wherein the distributor piping system includes;

a liquid refrigerant pipeline ~~having~~ connected to a first port of the distributor,

a plurality of liquid refrigerant branch pipelines branched from the liquid refrigerant pipeline and connected to the indoor unit expansion devices in the indoor units respectively,

a gas refrigerant pipeline ~~having~~ connected to a second port of the distributor,

a plurality of first gas refrigerant branch pipelines branched from the gas

refrigerant pipeline and connected to the indoor heat exchangers of the indoor units respectively,

a plurality of second gas refrigerant branch pipelines branched from intermediate points of the first gas refrigerant branch pipelines respectively,

a return pipeline ~~having~~ connected to all the second gas refrigerant pipelines ~~connected thereto~~, and connected to a third port of the distributor.

18. (Original) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 17, wherein the valve bank includes a plurality of open/close valves mounted on the first and second gas refrigerant branch pipelines.

19. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 18, wherein the distributor further includes ~~means for preventing a~~ liquefaction preventer which prevents liquefaction of liquefied refrigerant discharged from the compressor ~~and filled in~~ from filling the third pipeline ~~fully~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The multi-type air conditioner as claimed in claim 19, wherein the ~~means~~ liquefaction preventer includes;

a bypass pipeline connected between the return pipeline and the gas refrigerant pipeline, and

a distributor expansion device on the bypass pipeline.